

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated March 21, 2005, the Examiner rejects claims 1-7, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0091836 A1 (Moetteli).

By the present response, Applicants have amended claims 1-7, 10 and 12 to further clarify the invention. Claims 1-12 remain pending in the present application.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 1-7, 10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended the claims of the present application to further clarify the invention and respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Moetteli. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Moetteli discloses a browsing method for focusing research that includes a graphical user interface having a project search capability and, during browsing, input fields which demand certain user responses and which enable the user to postpone executing a potentially unrelated line of research until such as the project at hand is terminated. This allows the time shifting of less dedicated research sessions in the quantifying and allocation of wasteful online time to the responsible parties, allowing a user to be able to take advantage of interesting targeted banner

promotions or to follow potentially interesting hypertext links at a time convenient to the project at hand and attributable to the project for which the potentially interesting research may yield a benefit.

Regarding claims 1 and 8-12, Applicants submit that Moetteli does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of these claims of, inter alia, combining duplicates requested in differing said retrieval requests in accordance with pre-stored rules to generate an integrated retrieval request to lessen a number of retrieval requests, retrieving information from the databases on the basis of contents of the integrated retrieval requests integrating the retrieval request to obtain retrieval results, or integrating the duplicates of retrieval results by eliminating duplicates from the retrieval results to be sent to each of the users on the basis of similarity between contents of the retrieval results. The Examiner asserts that these limitations are disclosed in Moetteli at page 7, paragraphs [0069] – [0071]. However, these portions of Moetteli merely disclose that a selectable listing is saved by a user in association with a project name for later access, that a different user may use this saved selectable listing, that a user may search by his or another user name and receive all URL listings which he or another user saved, and that bookmarks may be searched using keywords of the user to identify canned, pre-organized listing of bookmarks which are preloaded and are associated with a readily recognizable generic, descriptive project name. This is not combining duplicates requested in differing retrieval requests in accordance with pre-stored rules to generate an integrated retrieval request, or retrieving information on the basis of the integrated retrieval request, or integrating duplicates of retrieval results.

by eliminating duplicates from the retrieval results to be sent to each of the users on the basis of similarity between contents of the retrieval results, as recited in the claims of the present application. The limitations in the claims of the present application provide an information providing service method and system which includes excluding duplicates or redundancies of retrieval requests based on a similarity between retrieved results to integrate a new retrieval request, whereby a number of users can obtain retrieval economically and efficiently without wasteful time and cost. In contrast, Moetteli provides a system in which a user 1 selects and records a history of information on a plurality of sites which the user 1 has accessed for research and search, and then another user 2 can make reference to the fully same information as the user 1. Moetteli does not disclose or suggest anything related to excluding duplicates and redundancies of retrieval requests based on similarities between retrieval results such as a duplicate list and a pre-stored rule, as recited in the claims of the present application.

In the method disclosed in Moetteli, even though information obtained from a user selected site A is similar to information obtained from the user selected site B (e.g., by 80%) both information from site A and site B will be recorded if the user 1 wishes to hold its history, since these information pieces are not identical and slightly different from each other. In this scenario as to a charged amount, PA, charged for access to site A and a charged amount, PB, charged for access to site B, there is a possibility that the user 2, later following the user 1, may pay charges PA + PB, which is wasteful. Therefore, according to Moetteli, the URL histories for both site A and site B are combined. In contrast, according to the present invention, when it is

determined that information obtained from a site A is similar in content to information obtained from a site B, either one of the information is deleted to integrate the information into one. This means to exclude a duplicate. As a result, any of users 1 and 2 can access only one among the information of site A and the information of site B, whereby the user may pay either of charge PA or PB, not both, thus enabling economical operation of the retrieval system.

Further, according to the present invention, the user can preset a retrieving condition which reduces the charge for retrieving and accessing a database or retrieving a retrieval result data which are not charge-free (e.g., by pre-setting a similarity of below 70%), resulting in cost reduction of retrieving. Moetteli does not disclose or suggest integrating duplicate retrieval requests, integrating retrieval requests in accordance with pre-stored rules, or integrating duplicate retrieval results, as recited in the claims of the present application.

Regarding claims 2-7, Applicants submit that these claims are dependent on independent claims 1 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted previously regarding this independent claim. For example, Applicants submit that Moetteli does not disclose or suggest wherein in the retrieval reservation registering portion, duplicates are checked and eliminated in the retrieval requests which exist at present and in the past so as to integrate retrieval conditions, or wherein when there are duplicates in retrieval requests among users and the retrieval requests are integrated to thereby acquire the retrieval results the retrieval device portion, makes on the basis of retrieval, copies of the retrieval results, integrates duplicates in the retrieval results by each of the users, and sends thus

modified the retrieval results to the respective users issuing the request for the retrieval requests data.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Moetteli does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of claims 1-12 of the present application.

Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-12 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.41209X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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